

RANDOM NOTES

(Continued from First Page.)

The project to establish an art museum in Chicago out of the ruins of the world's fair, is attracting much attention, particularly since Chicago's millionaires have made such a princely show of generosity, on paper, in connection with the enterprise. Apropos comes the following interesting bit of gossip and comment:

"Mr. L. Z. Leiter, who has always been very popular with Chicago people, notwithstanding his long absence from that ambitious city, created a great deal of amusement and delight last week, I understand, by his entrance into the great go-as-you-please, giving-away-fortune contest now raging among the millionaires of the western metropolises. It was not so much Mr. Leiter's gift of \$100,000 to the great museum project that caused the amusement as the conditions upon which he made the bestowal. He agreed to subscribe \$100,000 to the fund on the two conditions that the building should be located in Jackson Park, and that it should also be called the Columbian Museum. This would be a very proper name for the institution, but the sly humor of Mr. Leiter in attaching those conditions to his gift is the point that interests such of his friends as are aware of his motive in imposing it."

"It is a fact perhaps not generally known that the one weakness of Mr. Marshall Field (if such a thing may be called a weakness) is the very natural desire to have his name, and his alone, attached to any great enterprise with which he is connected. It is a historical fact, though perhaps not one generally known, that the reason for Mr. Leiter's withdrawal from the great firm of Field, Leiter & Co., many years ago, lay in the wish manifested by Mr. Field to have his own name and that of no other man appear on the signboard in front of the shop. While nobody in Chicago doubts for a moment the intensely philanthropic motives that impelled Mr. Field to make his conditional bequest of a million dollars to the Museum project, it is also very well known that up to the time Mr. Leiter made his gift there existed a very strong probability that the institution now being planned would be called The Field Art Museum, out of compliment to the generous gentleman who had started the ball rolling, so to speak, by so magnificent a gift. But, in order to avail themselves of the munificence of Mr. Leiter, the gentlemen who are engineering the project must find some other name than that of The Field Art Museum, and that is why the friends of Mr. Leiter are chuckling softly to themselves over the bit of rare satire involved in the conditions upon which he has made his gift. It is worth while stating, by the way, that none of these huge subscriptions to the Museum fund have yet been paid over."

Considerable interest attaches to the case of the two Seventh Day Adventists who have been sent to prison at Centerville, Md., for working on the first day of the week, in violation of the law of Maryland. They preferred to go to prison rather than pay the fine imposed by the court, because they believed that thus they could make the most impressive protest against any legal interference with a doctrine of their faith. Counsel for the two men have given notice that they will take the case to the higher courts of the state; and from there, if the decision be adverse, to the supreme court of the United States, when the argument will be based upon the principle set forth in the first amendment to the constitution. The final decision of the question at issue will interest not only the Seventh Day Adventists, who are largely represented in Lincoln and vicinity, but Seventh Day Baptists and believers in the Jewish faith and the unbelievers in religion.

Lincoln is not the only city in the country that has a telephone war on its hand. There is the biggest kind of a row on in New York where 500 telephone subscribers have been notified that they must give up their telephones or pay the advanced rate of the company—\$240 a year. The board of electrical control has directed the removal of overhead wires of the company, necessitating that they be placed in the subways. This order does away with 500 grounded circuits on which as many old instruments were used at a rental of \$150 a year, paid by subscribers. The subscribers are told that grounded circuits cannot be used in the subways because of the induction, which mixes messages up; that a metallic circuit, which costs much more to operate, and a newer instrument with latest improvements must be used, and for this the company demands \$240 a year.

The evening papers on Saturday and the Journal Sunday morning published a card signed by Mayor Weir in which he asked suggestions from "clergymen, professional men and others" as to

the most effective way to treat the social evil.

The Courier would call Mayor Weir's attention to two or three provisions of the municipal code. It is provided in the twentieth section of the city charter that the mayor "shall take care that the ordinances of the city and the provisions of this act are complied with."

When Mayor Weir was installed in office he took the following oath: "I do solemnly swear that I will support the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the state of Nebraska, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of mayor according to the best of my ability."

Article 36 of the general ordinances of the city provides that "it shall be unlawful for any person or persons within the limits of said city to keep, maintain, or have control of, as mistress or otherwise, any such house of ill fame or prostitution [previously described], and every person so offending shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined in any sum not less than twenty nor more than one hundred dollars for each offense, and shall be committed until such fine and costs of prosecution are paid."

The same article also provides that "it shall be unlawful for any person or persons within the limits of said city to be harbored or concealed in any such house of ill fame or prostitution, as an inmate thereof, or who shall be connected in any manner therewith, contributing to the support thereof, and any person so offending shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined in any sum not less than ten nor more than one hundred dollars, and shall be committed until such fine and the costs of prosecution are paid."

There is another provision, equally clear and positive, governing visitors to these places.

The position taken by the mayor and excise board is remarkable. Suppose the mayor had addressed a communication to "clergymen, professional men and others," stating that he knew positively that burglaries are being committed in this city, and that he had certain knowledge of where at least "nine" or "fourteen" of these law breakers lived, and asking their advice as to how he should treat the evil of burglary. Suppose that he had asked for advice as to how to prevent pickpockets from plying their trade. Such a request would not have been more remarkable than the one made last Saturday.

It is altogether out of the province of Mayor Weir to ask anybody's advice on this subject, or to treat the evil according to anybody's whim. There is only one thing for him to do, enforce the law. The law on this point is so plain that no interpretation by "clergymen, professional men and others" is necessary, and when the law directs in terms that are clear and positive, there is no room for any speculative theories. Enforce the law and treat the social evil precisely the same as burglary and arson and the other crimes are treated. Proneness to commit this particular offense is not any more ineradicable than the weakness in human nature that causes men to steal, and men are prevented from stealing by a system that imposes rigid punishment on the offender. Granted that the evil cannot be entirely wiped out; it can at least be abated; but the only way to abate it is to make an earnest attempt suppress it. Go after it, arrest the offenders, punish them; then if they offend again, arrest them and punish them again; keep everlastingly at it; enforce the law. Maybe you can't wipe out the social evil; you can certainly lessen it, and there is no better way than simply to enforce the law.

The rapid essence of inanity is the term applied by a certain unappreciative person in this city to a publication that the children and their relatives cry for every month. This person has the supreme effrontery to scoff at the *Ladies' Home Journal*, a publication having, heaven only knows, how many million subscribers, and one that discounts the Bible and Shakespeare, to say nothing of Amelie Rives, in many a home in Lincoln, where culture is so thick that you can bore a hole in it.

It is remarkable how unresponsive some people are: Ever since somebody in ancient history scattered gold watches before grizzly haired porkers, there have always been people who have lived next door to art and never made its acquaintance. Intellectuality has appeared in vain to men whose heads would make good stone breakers. And the good and the true and the beautiful too often knock at the door of imbeciles who are deaf and dumb and blind. The Courier is unable to comprehend the fact that there are people who cannot appreciate the intellectual vigor that is the distinguishing characteristic of the *Ladies' Home Journal*. Mr. Bok's paper is the most diverting periodical that comes to The Courier's high salaried exchange editor. It is full of a virile energy that most effectively routes that tired feeling and makes the reader thankful that he is permitted to live in this golden age of

the *Ladies' Home Journal* and Pear's soap.

In this great paper one can read the future of the human race and advertisements of the "Genuine Jackson Favorite Waist," and "Scott's Emulsion, the cream of cod-liver oil and hypo-phosphites," and "Lactated Food," and "Featherbone Corsets," and other things, and there is at times a rugged, almost Spartan-like tone to the articles that make you proud of the healthy, spirited, heroic tendency of the age. The man who thinks this publication, whose name is a household word wherever English or any other tongue is spoken, even in the innermost recesses of Borneo, is a rapid essence of inanity probably fell on his head in his youth.

There is one department of the *Ladies' Home Journal* that we admire particularly. It surpasses in literary and scientific value anything that can be found in any other publication. It is broadly intellectual and uplifting in its trend. We refer to the regular monthly two column "Side Talks With Girls" by Ruth Ashmore. Miss Ashmore dispenses with prodigal liberality so much information that is absolutely beyond valuation!

Observe for instance, the deep philanthropy of the touching admonition to "Bessie D" in the December number of this paper, to wear a very short corset when riding. What might have happened to "Bessie D" if she had been unable to secure Miss Ashmore's advice and had actually gone riding in a long corset, or even one of medium length, is something too serious for idle conjecture. And surely no one can fail to appreciate the deep significance of the words addressed to "J. E. B." viz: "In making a first call a gentleman should not remain over twenty minutes." It is the violation of such rules as this that has caused thrones to totter and the young man to miss his car. Miss "J. E. B." way for the future is clear. The young man who ventures to overstep, or we should say, overstay, the limit, will have the clock and the *Ladies' Home Journal* thrown in his face. He will not do so again.

There is something decidedly invigorating in the intelligence cheerfully vouchsafed to "M. L. B."—"if a gentleman offers you his arm as he is walking home with you in the evening, you should take it." One wonders, however, what the young lady ought to do if the "gentleman" offered his arm earlier in the evening when they were leaving instead of returning to her home. And where, but in the *Ladies' Home Journal*, that compendium of morals and wisdom, could you obtain an opinion of such value as the following: "I think it very improper for a girl of sixteen to go boating alone with a young man at night." It can readily be seen how this journal is an absolute necessity in every home.

And how gratifying it must be to the refined people who patronize the *L. H. J.*, to know that Ruth Ashmore thinks it "very improper for any young woman to allow a man friend to kiss her whenever he desires."

Ruth rises to the heights of inspiration when she says: "It is never proper to eat from one's knife."—And to think that there is somebody in Lincoln who thinks the *Ladies' Home Journal* vapid! We also learn that it is not necessary to put on the deepest mourning for a mother-in-law—a most important point. To "Helen H." Ruth says: "If your teeth have become very much discolored I would suggest having them cleaned." Could anything be more delicate than this?

This department of Ruth Ashmore's, to say nothing of the equally intellectual contributions by other people, is of inestimable worth, and it is easy to see how it must appeal to the women of this country, who without Ruth's advice, would disgrace themselves every day. And there is so much strength in the paper that it is the best kind of a tonic. Inanity indeed! Some people are very dull. We are sorry for those who cannot appreciate the sublime merit of the *Ladies' Home Journal*.

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